

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006, claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hottman (5,027,473) in view of Wronski (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,494); claim 2, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hottman in view of Broghammer (U.S. Patent No. 3,421,177); and claims 3, 4, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hottman in view of Feldberg (U.S. Patent No. 2,635,281). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Hottman fails to discuss the Applicant's "cap" as recited in claim 1, for example. However, the Examiner asserts that Wronski discusses this feature.

None of the foregoing references, individually or combined, discuss "the cap comprises a slot at a side thereof to receive the hinge lever, upper and lower through-holes formed at upper and lower walls of the cap such that the auxiliary hinge shaft passes through the upper and lower through-holes of the cap and the coupling hole of the hinge lever," as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Wronski is not related to a refrigerator. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine Hottman with Wronski.

Further, Wronski merely discusses a window stay having a base, a window support arm, and a link. The base includes an upstanding wall having a channel defined in a portion thereof which receives a slider on which one end of the arm is pivotally mounted. The link is pivotally connected to the arm and the base. The connection between the base and the link is formed between a stud-like projection and an end cap which is push fit onto an end of the link (see column 2, lines 22-45, for example). As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the end of the link is inserted into an opening in a side of the end cap and through the projection. A passage 25 of the end cap is pushed passed the projection 22, whereby a head of the projection initially deflects a projection 26 such that it rides down the side of the projection 22 and then snaps into the groove locking the link to the projection 22 and the base (see column 2, lines 49-59; and FIG. 3, for example). That is, in Wronski, the projection 22 is not inserted into the link.

Broghammer discusses a hinge for doors or windows whereby a bushing includes a hole formed in a flange thereof for grease to be introduced into the hole and received by a groove and distributed peripherally (see column 2, lines 49-53).

Feldberg discusses an indexing hinge for pivotally mounting swing frames from fixed fixtures (see column 1, lines 1-3). Further, Feldberg discusses an enclosing cup retained in an assembled position by a hinge bolt to provide a leakproof compartment with the assembled parts of the hinge such that suitable lubricant may be permanently contained in the enclosing cup (see column 5, lines 35-46; and FIG. 6).

Claim 6 has been amended to recite features somewhat similar to amended claim 1. Therefore, the comments mentioned above regarding claim 1, may also be applied to the rejections of the other claims.

Broghammer nor Feldberg make up for the deficiencies of Hottman and Wronski mentioned above. Therefore, any combination of the foregoing references fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention.

Thus, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

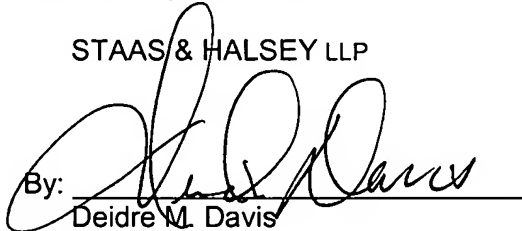
Respectfully submitted,

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